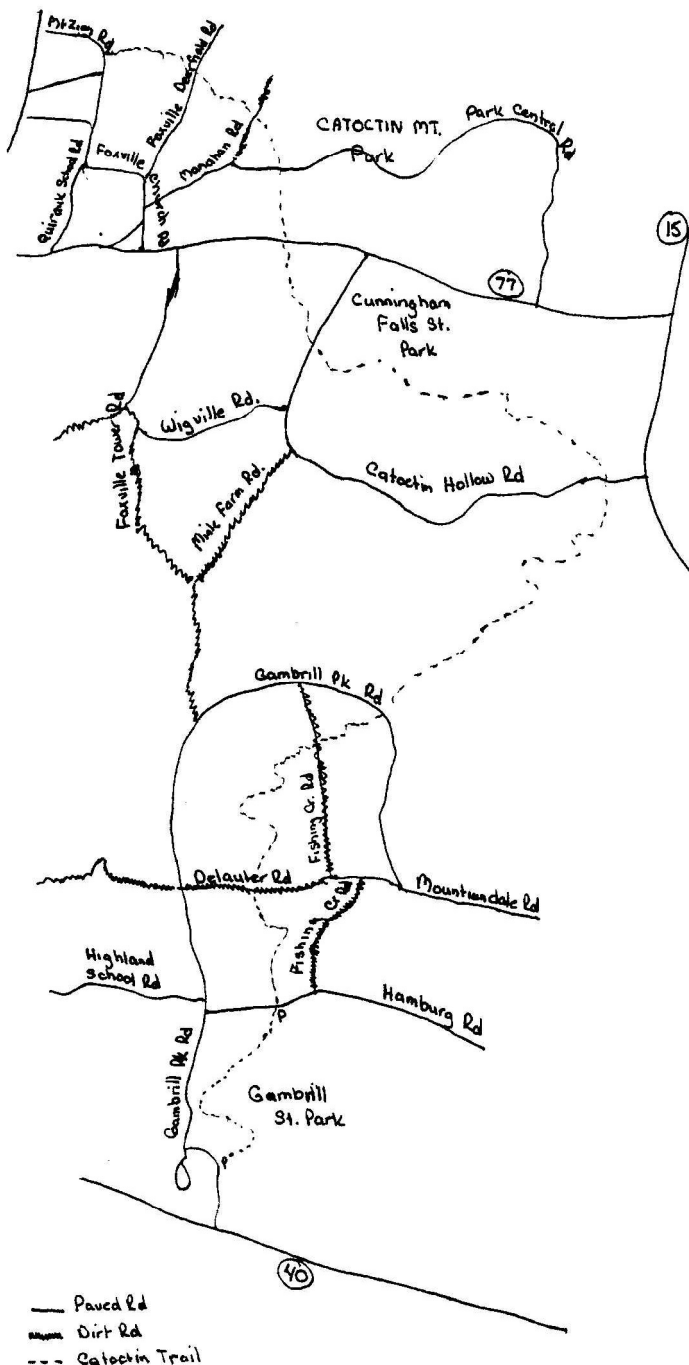


Local Walking Trail

By Marylou Stone

CATOCTIN TRAIL - DELAUTER ROAD TO FISHING CREEK ROAD



This is the third section of the Catoclin Trail that I have hiked. The Catoclin Trail, marked by blue blazes, is a trail that starts at Gambrill State Park and continues north through the Frederick City Watershed, Cunningham Falls State Park, and Catoclin Mountain Park. It is 26.5 miles long and eventually ends at Mount Zion Road, 1.3 miles north of Owens Creek Campground in Catoclin Mountain Park.

I hiked the section of the trail from Delauter Road to Fishing Creek Road. This part of the trail is 5 miles round trip. There is very little parking available on Delauter Road or Fishing Creek Road. Pay attention to the signs that state no parking.

The trail is rocky so tennis shoes or hiking boots are recommended. I hiked this trail one summer afternoon. After about one mile, I came upon a pond. It was so clear that I could see the fish swimming in the bottom of the pond. I spotted two fauns hidden against the roots of a fallen tree. I also saw a Hooded Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, and Pileated Woodpecker.